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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As Microsoft claimed during the trial, times and the nature of business have changed. The anti-trust enforcement that was meaningful three-quarters of a century ago are not necessarily so in the twentyfirst century.

Specifically, the settlement takes into account only established, for-profit, business entities, as defined by Microsoft itself. Talk about letting the fox guard the henhouse! In today's world of computer software, Microsoft's most dreaded competition is not a business, but free software. For example; Apache, Sendmail, and Perl rule the internet, and yet they are all free. SAMBA, another freebie, is widely used to let real servers serve Windows shares. Without the knowledge which this proposed settlement guarantees to businesses, SAMBA won't be able to keep up.

Even the US government is denied the information. Remember the story of the new battleship that had to be towed back to harbor on it's maiden voyage because it's Microsoft-driven computer system failed? The DOD, NASA, NIST, and assorted national laboratories are all prime contenders to need the information that is being dispensed.

This proposed settlement needs another going-over. At the very least, the US government should be included. Organized free-software efforts are also vital. Better still, why not just require that the knowledge be put in the public domain? If it can be made available to the so-called arch-rival businesses, why not to Joe Public? In any case, Microsoft should not be allowed to set any standards for eligible recipients -- that is an obvious conflict of interest.

Don't be fooled by my address; I am a US citizen.

NHA

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